

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 IO-13

AF-08 EB-07 COME-00 OES-06 /098 W

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R 200945Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USIAC

USIA FOR IOP/M, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI PRESS SUMMARY

SUMMARY: PAST WEEK'S SAUDI PRESS (APRIL 14-20) MAJOR STORY
COVERAGE INVOLVED LEBANON'S DEVELOPMENTS, THE AFRICAN/ARAB
FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN DAKAR, IRAQ'S DEPUTY
PRESIDENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE CURRENT VISIT OF
DR. GHAZI AL-QUSAIBI TO USA AND THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION
IN THE OCCUPIED JORDAN WEST BANK. END SUMMARY.

1. INTERESTING REPORTS THIS WEEK WERE: 4/15 ARAB NEWS
PUBLISHED IN FULL SISCO'S STATEMENT ON SALE OF PLANES
TO EGYPT, 4/14 ABDUL RAHMAN AL RASHID OF AL-RIYADH
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NEWSPAPER SAID THAT VISIT OF DR. GHAZI AL-QUSAIBI TO

U.S. DEMONSTRATED CLEARLY TO AMERICANS THAT KINGDOM IS FIRM IN ITS STAND TOWARDS ARAB BOYCOTT APPLIED AGAINST ISRAEL. THEREFORE ANY ZIONIST PRESSURE AGAINST AMERICAN COMPANIES "WILL NOT CHANGE THE KINGDOM'S STAND."

2. 4/15 UKAZ EDITORIAL CRITICIZED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WHICH ENCOURAGED COMMUNISM INFILTRATION IN THE WORLD, IN GENERAL, AND THE ARAB WORLD IN PARTICULAR. EDITORIAL SAID THAT USA COMMITTED SERIES OF MISTAKES AND SACRIFICED MANY PRINCIPLES FOR SAKE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL MANEUVERS REPRESENTED BY ZIONIST PRESSURE GROUPS. THIS HAS WEAKENED U.S. INFLUENCE IN M.E. AND GIVEN CHANCE FOR THE SOVIET UNION TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN AREA.

2. IBRAHIM OF AL-RIYADH 4/19 SAID THAT ARAB PRIME PROBLEM IS LACK OF LONG-TERM PLANNING. HE HOPES THAT LEBANON'S ORDEAL WOULD BE LESSON FOR ARABS TO QUICKLY RECONSIDER THEIR POLITICAL PLANS. ON DAKAR MEETING THE ARAB NEWS OF APRIL 19 SAID "FUNDS ARE FLOWING FROM THE ARAB WORLD TO AFRICA AT A RATE CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE QUITE ADEQUATE IN VIEW OF RELATIVELY LIMITED ABSORPTION CAPACITY FOR MOST AFRICAN STATES. OTHERS

WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LOANS GRANTED AND SOME AGREEMENT REACHED ON SUPPLYING AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH OIL AT REDUCED PRICES."

3. MURAQIB OF AL-BILAD 4/17 QUOTED SADDAM HUSSEIN, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF IRAQ SAYING AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN JIDDA THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG ARABS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO HARM THEIR MUTUAL CAUSES. SADDAM EXPRESSED HOPE OF ESTABLISHING COOPERATION AMONG THE GULF STATES WHICH WOULD LEAD TO STABILITY AND TO SECURE NAVIGATION IN THE GULF, WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

4. JA'AFAR ABDUL-SALAM WROTE IN AL-JAZIRA 4/17 THAT MOSCOW VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW BY DELIVERING ITS NOTE OF PROTEST AGAINST THE EGYPTIAN ONE-SIDED

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ABROGATION OF TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, BECAUSE THE NOTE ADDRESSED DIRECTLY THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, AND CHARGED EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP WITH HARMING EGYPTIAN INTEREST BY CANCELLING THE TREATY. "THUS MOSCOW HAS SET UP ITSELF AS A DEFENDER OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AGAINST ITS LEADERSHIP." ALI SHAHATA OF AL-RIYADH SAID 4/19 THAT PRESIDENT FORD FINALLY RECOGNIZED THAT U.N.'S ROLE IS VITAL AND THE U.N. VERY NECESSARY FOR WORLD PEACE.

WE KNOW THAT MANY AMERICAN POLITICIANS, INCLUDING CONGRESS, HAVE FELT DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S, BECAUSE IT DOES NO LONGER SHOW SUFFICIENT RESPECT FOR U.S. ATTITUDES WHICH SUPPORT SOME COUNTRIES LIKE ISRAEL, DESPITE WORLD'S WILL.

5. UKAZ EDITORIAL 4/20 WELCOMED FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN DAKAR WHICH WILL PREPARE FOR A SUMMIT CONFERENCE. AFTER REVIEWING THE HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ARAB AND AFRICAN NATIONS, EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE EXPECTED SUMMIT CONFERENCE WILL ESTABLISH FIRM BASIS FOR FUTURE AFRICAN-ARAB RELATIONS AND WILL, ONCE AND FOR ALL, PULL THE RUG FROM UNDER THOSE WHO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS.
SABBAGH

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